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ABSTRACT

The Education Services Department of the Cherokee Nation develops and supports comprehensive educational programs for Cherokee people. This publication describes services in the following areas: education administration, higher education, adult education, co-partner programs, youth activities, Learn and Serve Program, Talking Leaves Job Corps, Sequoyah High School, and early childhood unit. Each section includes a mission statement, contact information, and activities provided by the program. The higher education program assists Cherokee students with college-related expenses by providing scholarship funding. Adult education addresses literacy and basic educational skills by providing classes for Indian adults who have not completed high school. The Johnson-O'Malley co-partner program provides a variety of activities that are designed to challenge American Indian students. Youth activities include the Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council, the Trail of Tears Awards for Excellence, and school and community programs. The Cherokee Nation Learn and Serve Program includes federally funded service-learning programs for youth in grades K-12. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Talking Leaves Job Corps provides opportunities for youth between the ages of 16 and 24. Sequoyah High School is a boarding school, originated in 1871, which provides a stable and controlled education environment. The early childhood unit provides home-based and center-based Head Start and Early Head Start programs. (CDS)

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CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SERVICES

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Cherokee Nation

Education and Human Services Seal

In the center of the Cherokee Nation Education and Human Services Division Seal are two hands clasped in unity. There is a symbolic buffalo surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves. Above the clasped hands are an eagle in flight and seven eagle feathers. The outside border of this device bears the words, "Cherokee Nation Education and Human Services."

Interpretation is found in Native American folklore and history. The two hands joined together represent the present effort of the Education and Human Services Division to promote and sustain the self-reliance of its members. The words of the logo, "Knowledge, Skills and Responsibility" promote the goals of all programs striving to develop an individual's independence by enhancing and recognizing that needs are best defined and met by individuals and the communities where they live. The oak leaves are a symbol of strength and everlasting life through the sacred fire. The buffalo is a call for all races to come together and heal the earth, a symbol of the need to have hope for the future. The eagle represents the strength that is found in the unity of the seven clans. The seven clans are represented by the seven eagle feathers, symbolizing the dauntless, courageous spirit of the people.

Cherokee Nation Education Services Department

Phone Number (918) 456-0671 education@cherokee.org **FAX Number (918) 458-6195**

Director of Education Services:	**extension 2485**
Associate Education Director:	**extension 2280**
Associate Education Director:	**extension 2300**

Cherokee Nation
Education Services Department Mission Statement

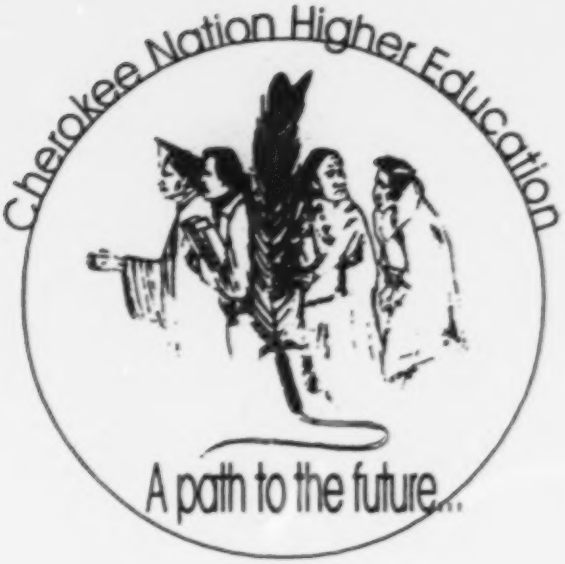
The mission of the Cherokee Nation Education Services Department is to develop and support comprehensive educational programs for Cherokee people. These programs will continually develop and sustain mental, physical, social and spiritual development through lifelong learning. Education programs will provide the education opportunities for tribal members in preparation for a full and active life as tribal citizens and is seen as a responsibility and privilege of every tribal member.

Program Services

- Education Administration
- Higher Education
- Adult Education
- Co-Partner Programs (JOM)
- Youth Activities
- Learn & Serve Program
- Talking Leaves Job Corps
- Sequoyah High School
- Early Childhood Unit (Head Start)

Education Administration

Phone Number
(918) 456-0671
extension 2465



Toll Free Number
1 (800) 256-0671, Okla. only
extension 2465

Cherokee Nation

Higher Education Mission Statement

The Cherokee Nation's Higher Education Program exists for the purpose of assisting Cherokee students in their quest for a post secondary education.

Undergraduate Programs

- Assists PELL-grant eligible students with college related expenses.
- Assists non-pell grant eligible students with college related expenses.
- Assists vocational education students who reside within the 14-county jurisdiction.
- Assists Haskell Indian Nations University students with enrollment fees.
- Applications are available by written request only after January 1 of each year.
- Deadline for application submission is April 1 of each year.

Graduate Scholarship Program

- Assists graduate students with tuition, fees & book expenses in three (3) categories:
  - ◊ Full-time graduate students ($500) per semester - First Priority.
  - ◊ Employed students attending part-time ($250 per semester) - Second Priority.
  - ◊ Special Awards ($250 per semester, if funds are available) - Third Priority.
- Deadline for submission of scholarship application is May 1.
- Applications are available by written request only after February 1 of each year.

Additional Scholarship Programming

- Greens-Matthews Fund--Environment Science, Masters level.
- Dawson-Nelson-Akanadi Scholarship.--OSU Freshman.

Higher Education

Adult Education

Phone Number
(918) 458-0484

FAX Number
(918) 458-0484

Cherokee Nation

Adult Education Mission Statement

The mission of the Cherokee Nation Adult Education Program is to provide access to educational programs that promote lifelong learning which will allow participants an opportunity to obtain academic skills to achieve meaningful employment and personal growth.

Adult Education provides:

- an opportunity for Indian adults to receive a quality education in their home community.
- adults with an opportunity to obtain their G.E.D. Certificates.
- parents an opportunity to become better readers for their children.

Program Components

- Basic Skills (Reading, math and writing)
- GED Preparation
- Life Skills
- Basic Literacy
- Cherokee Basket Making

Student Support Services

- Transportation
- Childcare

Instructional Approaches

- emphasizes a flexible open entry/exit program
- study at their own pace and receive individualized & whole group instruction

Service Area

- Services where the need exists within the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area.

Other Services Offered

- Scheduled GED Testing
- Tutorial
- Diagnostic and Placement
- Referrals
- Computer Assisted Instruction
- Free Income Tax Assistance
- Paid GED Fees
- Mileage to and from Class
- Information on programs & other services within the Cherokee Nation.

Adult Education Program Goals

The focus of the Adult Education Program is to address literacy and basic educational skills by providing adult education classes for Indian adults who have not completed their high school education.

Adult Education

Co-Partner Programs
Cherokee Nation Johnson-O'Malley Program

Phone Number
(918) 456-0671
or
1 (800) 256-0671
extension 2250

FAX Number
(918) 458-6195
E-Mail
jom@cherokee.org

Cherokee Nation
Johnson-O'Malley Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Cherokee Nation Johnson-O'Malley Program to address the special and unique learning styles of Indian children by providing comprehensive, accelerated, and supplemental education programs designed by parents.

- Administers programs for Indian students from age three (3) through grade 12 who are 1/4 or more degree Indian or a member of a federally recognized tribe.
- Serves the 14-county Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area and one county in southeast Kansas.
- Services are provided through In-School, Community Base, and Incorporated JOM programs.
- Training is provided for parent committees, school administration, school staff, and other educators through group and on-site workshops.

JOM Program Activities

The Cherokee Nation JOM Program firmly believes in encouraging American Indian student achievements, and challenges JOM students to excel academically, culturally, and creatively through JOM sponsored competitions and camps.

"Di-Go-We-Li-S-Gi"
Creative Writing Competition

"Da-Wo-Ni-Hi-S-Di"
Oratory Competition

Very Special Day
Hands On Learning for Special Ed

JOM Tribal Youth Conference
Youth Leadership Camp

C.O.M.M.E.N.T.S.
A Video Production Camp

S.U.M.M.E.R.
Academics Through Culture

Math & Science Day
Hands On Learning

"Da-Na-Tli-Lo-Sta-Nv-Hv-S-Gv"
Art Competition

"A-Na-Da-Go-Na-Dv-Di-S-Gv"
Cherokee Challenge Bowl

JOM Awards Banquet
Student Competition Awards

Parents are vital and essential to JOM programs. Training and enrichment for parents and school staff are provided through the Oklahoma JOM Conference, the Mentor Program, and individual parent committees.

Co-Partner Programs

Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council

Phone Number
(918) 456-0671
extension 2397

FAX Number
(918) 458-6195

General Information

- a 15-member youth council patterned after the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council.
- members established their own by-laws.
- Elections are held throughout the Cherokee Nation's jurisdiction in October.
- Youth council members meet each month.

Qualifications

- must be of Cherokee descent.
- must be enrolled in high school or an under-graduate degree program in an accredited university or a vocational training program.
- must be at least 16 years of age and not more than 22.

"The honor of one is the honor of all."

The Cherokee Nation Tribal Youth Council (TYC) was formed in July 1989. The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council passed Resolution #80-89 on Oct. 14, 1989, recognizing the youth council as a functional part of the Cherokee Nation. Community service projects are an integral part of the youth council.

Tsa-La-Gi Trail of Tears Awards for Excellence

Phone Number
(918) 456-0671
extension 2397

- Designed to recognize and encourage students.
- Assists in transition of pursuing a higher education.
- Each student receives a certificate & a commemorative T-shirt.
- Special Tsa-La-Gi Trail of Tears District Award for Excellence.

FAX Number
(918) 458-6195

The Cherokee Nation Tsa-La-Gi Trail of Tears Awards for Excellence is an honors ceremony which recognizes Indian students who have excelled in the area of academics, art, civic organizations, Indian cultural activities, music, school clubs, sports, extra curricular activities, citizenship for school or for community service. The annual ceremony honors 500 to 700 Indian students each year from more than 80 schools. Each honored student receives a certificate and a commemorative T-shirt.

School Programs

Phone Number (918) 456-0671, extenstion 2464 **FAX Number (918) 458-6195**

FACTS (Fertility Awareness for Children & Teens' Safety) Program

- 5th grade level - Personal Growth & Development & Hygiene
- 7th - 8th grade - Puberty, Decision Making Skills, Pregnancy Prevention
- 9th - 12th grade - Decisions & Consequences, STD's, Contraceptives

HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

- the program is available from the fifth grade to the college level.
- the presentor for the program is a certified AIDS educator, counselor and tester.
- the program is available to adults, teachers, and special interest groups in the community.
- the programs are free of charge and are offered as a special service to all schools in the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area.

Community Programs

- **Straight Talk**
- **How to Talk to Your Teens About Sex**
- **AIDS 101**

Youth Activities

Phone Number
(918) 456-0671
extension 2641

FAX Number
(918) 458-6195

Learn and Serve Mission Statement

The mission of the Corporation for National Service is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service that addresses the nation's needs in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation will foster civic responsibility, strengthen the ties that bind us together as a people, and provide educational opportunities for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

- Federally funded by the Corporation for National Service.
- Learn and Serve America is a grants program that seeks to promote youth as resources in schools and communities through service-learning.
- Funds school-based programs that engage youth in grades K-12.
- Schools and community organizations collaborate to plan, implement, or replicate existing programs as well as to sustain service-learning through training.

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is the integration of service activities in the community with classroom learning and youth programming. Youth participants take the lead in designing, planning and implementing activities that harness their skills, knowledge, and abilities as resources in addressing real-life problems. Programs combine service and learning through carefully constructed formal and informal curricula with clear learning outcomes that provide opportunities for youth and benefits for the community.

The Cherokee Nation Learn and Serve Program strives to develop a comprehensive, innovative service-learning program within the 14-county jurisdictional service area. Employing the philosophy that community needs are best defined and met by members of a community, the focus of this program is the development of school-based community projects which engage youth from rural, isolated communities.

Funding:

- for school-based programs,
- available annually on a competitive basis,
- amount varies between $3,000 and $5,000,
- to encourage development and implementation of service learning programs.

Learn and Serve Program

Talking Leaves Job Corps

Phone Number
(918) 456-9959

In State 1 (800) 256-9959

FAX Number
(918) 456-1270

Learn to Earn!

Prepare to Meet Opportunity!

www.intellex.com\~advcomp

Talking Leaves Job Corps
Mission Statement

The purpose of the Talking Leaves Center is to provide opportunities for its student employees to obtain new job skills, improve academic abilities, attain a high school diploma or GED, if needed, and enhance social skills in a caring and supportive, safe and secure, clean and beautiful learning environment. Student employees will also be provided Center assistance for work based learning, job search activities and job placement services which will enable them to get good jobs with good wages and benefits.

- Provides opportunity for youth between the ages of 16 and 24.
- Operated by Cherokee Nation.
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Open entry/open exit program.
- Enhances and improves educational skills.
- Students learn social skills.
- Eligible students participate for up to two years.
- One of two Indian-emphasis centers.

Offers training in six vocational areas:

- Culinary Arts
- Business Careers
- Building & Apartment Maintenance
- Health Occupations
- Electrical Wiring
- Material Handlers

Off Campus Training

- Auto Mechanics
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Carpentry
- Masonry
- Welding
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Cosmotology

Advance Career Training: Northeastern State University

Talking Leaves Job Corps

Sequoyah High School

Phone Number (918) 456-0631 **FAX Number (918) 456-0634** **Toll Free Number 1 (800) 467-4746**

Sequoyah High School

Mission Statement

Sequoyah's mission is to enable students to meet the challenges of their future both academically and socially.

Sequoyah High School, a boarding school, originated in 1871 through an act of the Cherokee National Council for the care and education of those children orphaned during the Civil War. From 1914 to 1985, SHS was operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1985, Cherokee Nation contracted the operation of Sequoyah High School under Public Law 93-638 and later converted the contract to a grant.

Student Body

- Must be a member of a federally recognized tribe or 1/4 blood descendant of such member.
- Day as well as dormitory students.
- Students from 13 states representing 44 tribes attend Sequoyah High School.

Sequoyah High School is accredited by the State of Oklahoma and North Central Association of Colleges and Universities for grades 9 through 12.

Services Available to SHS Students

- Concurent Enrollment at Northeastern State University
- Higher Education Counseling
- Jack Brown Substance Abuse Treatment Center
- Indian Health Service
- W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital
- Nurse on Campus
- Campus Chapel Services
- Title I (Language Arts, Math, Reading)
- Special Education
- Title VII (Bilingual Education)
- Title IX (Indian Education)
- Indian Capital Vo-Tech Courses
- Tutorial Assistance in Dormitories
- Academic and Guidance Counseling
- Career Counseling
- In-School Work Program
- Dormority Living

Clubs/Organizations/Activities

Students may join any club or organization as long as students meet the criteria. They are:

- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Pep Club
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Weight Lifting
- Intramural Team Sports & Parlor Games
- FHA
- Peacemakers
- Spanish Club
- Art Club
- Academic Teams
- National Art Honor Society
- D-FY
- Dorm Council
- Gifted & Talented
- Indian Club

SHS Goals

- To provide a stable, orderly and controlled education environment.
- To provide an environment of pride that will enhance the student's social relationships with others.
- To provide an academic climate that is conducive to success and status gain.
- To provide an opportunity for students to become total citizens.
- To provide students with an opportunity to explore careers.
- To provide an educational setting for ethnic and cultural development.
- To create an environment that will cultivate the student's personal self-discipine and decision making skills.

Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit

Toll Free Number 1 (888) 458-4393

Phone Number (918) 458-4393

FAX Number (918) 458-5799

headstart@cherokee.org

"Good Beginnings Never End"

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Cherokee Nation

Early Childhood Unit Mission Statement

The mission of the Early Childhood Unit is to bring about a greater degree of social competence in children who may be economically or educationally disadvantaged. The Early Childhood Unit's approach is based on the philosophy that a child can benefit most from a comprehensive interdisciplinary program to foster development and remedy problems through the involvement of the child's entire family, as well as the community.

The Head Start and Early Head Start Programs are based on the premise that pregnant women and 0-4 year old children can benefit from a social and educational program.

Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit Offers Two Options

- Center Based: a classroom environment which promotes early childhood development stages.
- Home Based: an option that provides comprehensive service to children and their families. This option has helped parents to provide for their children in their homes, many of the same developmental activities and support services that the children would receive if they were attending a Head Start center.

Head Start/Early Head Start History

Head Start, nationally, was originally launched in the Summer of 1965 as an eight-week pilot program. Its instant popularity and evident success rate caused the first summer program to explode to a present day national population of approximately 752,077 children and families. Several expansions took place through the years to "phase-in" a variety of program options.

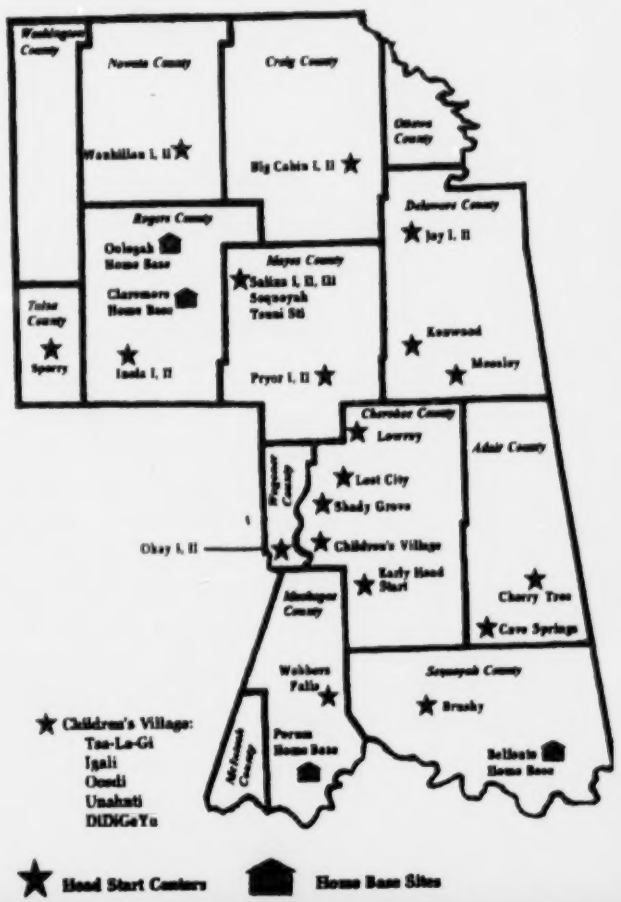
The first major expansion occurred in 1978 with the addition of 58,400 children. The Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit Head Start Program was a part of this major expansion with an original funded enrollment of 120--six centers with 20 children each. Another opportunity for expansion was announced in1982 and the Early Childhood Unit was again successful in securing yet another Head Start option to serve children and families. This new expansion brought "Home Base" to the program. This allowed children and families to be served in their homes due to no available facilities in their communities.

In 1996, the unit was further expanded to include birth to three year old children. The Early Childhood Unit Head Start Program has always served three and four year old children and recent research indicated early intervention was needed before the age of three; therefore, funds were made available for the "Early Head Start" Program in 1995. The Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit competed for these funds in 1996 and was successful.

The new Early Head Start Program was operational Aug. 1, 1997. Centers are located at the James Danielson's Children's Village in Tahlequah and Home Based communities in Mayes and Cherokee counties.

Annual ECU Events

- Little Olympics (Non-competitive, fun, and physical activities for all children)
- Health and Safety Fair (To interact with Health and Safety Professionals)
- Tree Lighting (for parents and staff to start the holiday season)
- Red Ribbon Activities (State-wide Drug Prevention Week)
- Week of the Young Child (To Celebrate Children!)
- Early Childhood Conference (Intense Early Childhood Training)
- Transition Conference (A collaboration with Early Childhood Programs and Public Schools)
- Parent Appreciation Banquet (To recognize outstanding parents)
- Head Start Scholarship Award (To help former program children attend college)



Early Childhood Unit

Office of the Chief

(918) 456-0671, ext. 2210

P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Office of the Deputy Chief

(918) 456-0671, ext. 2203

P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

FAX Number
(918) 458-5580

www.cherokee .org

Cherokee Nation Seal

In the center of the seal of the Cherokee Nation is a large seven-pointed star surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves. The outside border of this device bears the words, "Seal of the Cherokee Nation." Two words for "Cherokee Nation" in the native language then follow, printed in characters from Sequoyah's syllabary and pronounced "Tsa-La-Gi-HiA-Ye-Le." At the lower edge of the seal is the date, "September 6, 1839," when the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, was adopted.

Interpretation of the design in the seal was found in Cherokee folklore and history. Ritual songs in certain tribal ceremonials refer to seven clans, the legendary beginnings of the Cherokee people. A sacred fire was kept perpetually burning in the "town house" at a central point in the Nation. The live oak, the principal hardwood timber of the Carolinas, was used in the fire. The oak symbolizes strength and everlasting life.

The seven-pointed star in the Cherokee seal represents the seven Cherokee clans. Because the oak tree is associated with the mysteries of the sacred fire, the wreath of oak leaves symbolizes the dauntless spirit of courageous Cherokee people.

The Cherokee Seal was adopted by law of the National Council and approved by Lewis Downing, Principal Chief on December 11, 1871.

Ref: Chronicles of Oklahoma—Volume XVIII, No. 4, December, 1940.